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DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 12 December 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of a letter dated 12 December 1997 from the President of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Dr. Radoje Kontic, addressed to the President of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 82, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 12 December 1997 from the President of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing in connection with the question of Prevlaka, which, at its core, is a territorial dispute between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia. It is known that the dispute is the subject of bilateral negotiations, regulated by the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolution 1119 (1997), and article 4 of the Agreement on Normalization of Relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia.

Despite the efforts made on the part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, no significant progress in the direction of reaching a solution to this territorial dispute has been made thus far. The basic impediment to the quest for a solution is the lack of readiness on the Croatian side to solve the dispute through negotiations, as well as its attempts to prejudge the solution by resorting to unilateral acts and violations of the demilitarized zone.

The Yugoslav side has informed the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the situation several times, while appropriate data have been forwarded to the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) in the field. Unfortunately, despite the clear requests by the Security Council in its resolution 1119 (1997) and the obligations from the Agreement on Normalization of Relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia, the Croatian side continues to violate the regime on Prevlaka.

The Croatian military continues to be deployed in "blue" and "yellow" zones, in which a few hundred military troops, as well as police officers, are actively engaged. Occasional military exercises in the immediate vicinity of the demilitarized zone, as well as incursions into the zone by military and police vehicles and vessels, are not only serious violations, but also create a climate of insecurity which does not facilitate the strengthening of confidence-building measures and the quest for a peaceful solution. The statements of the highest-ranking Croatian officials, as well as the activities of local authorities, promoting various projects aimed at affirming the policy of fait accompli by way of building a tourist resort on Prevlaka, are made with the same goal in mind.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has shown consistent respect for the demilitarized area on Prevlaka and for the provisions of the Security Council resolutions relevant to that issue. Accordingly, it has rendered full support to, and has cooperated with UNMOP. The Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has accepted the invitation of the Security Council in resolution 1119 (1997) and has adopted almost all the practical options proposed by the United Nations military observers related to their security and freedom of movement, as well as to security in the area of Prevlaka as a whole.

Bearing that in mind, as well as the situation in the field, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers that, in order to preserve security and strengthen the atmosphere of confidence, it is necessary that the decisions of the Security Council be fully complied with. We expect the Security Council to extend the mandate of UNMOP after 15 January 1998 and to keep the United Nations military observers in place until a mutually acceptable solution to the territorial dispute on Prevlaka has been found through bilateral negotiations.

(Signed) Dr. Radoje KONTIC